



Indiana State Board of Education

Room 225 State House
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2798

MINUTES

INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

December 1, 2010

Department of Education

James Whitcomb Riley Conference Room

151 West Ohio Street

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

The meeting of the Indiana State Board of Education convened at 9:06 a.m. Board members Jo Blacketer, Mike Pettibone, James Edwards, Steve Gabet, David Shane, Daniel Elsener, Sara O'Brien, Vicki Snyder, and Neil Pickett were present. Board members Dr. Tony Bennett and Dr. Gwendolyn Griffith-Adell were not present.

I. Call to Order

Mr. Pettibone led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Jeffery P. Zaring, Chief of Results and Reform said there was a correction in the minutes. On page seven, paragraph five, line eight, it should read "senior" year. Mr. Elsener made a motion for approval of the minutes as corrected. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Statement of the Chair

Mr. Pettibone said a large amount of dollars are invested in education, and education, therefore, becomes political. He supports the boldness of Dr. Bennett in addressing issues that point out the need for improvement. The issue should not be Democrat or Republican, and everyone needs to remember this. Failing organizations spend too much time defending the status quo. The Board, under the leadership of Dr. Bennett, is not defending the status quo.

Mr. Pettibone thanked Todd Huston for his dedication to the education in Indiana. Mr. Huston was a former local school board member, former member of the State Board of Education, and recently resigned as Chief of Staff for the Indiana Department of Education (DOE). Mr. Pickett asked that the Board issue a formal resolution of thanks to Mr. Huston who has served above and beyond the call of duty. Mr. Elsener thanked Mr. Huston for his service said recognized Mr. Huston for being an exceptional Hoosier.

Mr. Pettibone said he would also like to thank Patty Steele, personal friend, educator, and former chair of the Advisory Committee on Textbook Adoptions who is retiring from the LaPorte School system this month.

IV. Spotlight on Learning

Jeffery P. Zaring, Chief of Results and Reform said the Spotlight on Learning focuses on Plymouth Community School Corporation and its efforts to incorporate technology in the classroom. The DOE wants to use programs like those developed by Plymouth to develop guidance for superintendents who want to learn more about how to use the textbook waiver to purchase computers and what an innovative classroom looks like in practice.

Mr. Dan Tyree, Superintendent, introduced Dan Funston, Principal, Lincoln Junior High School; Bob Garrity, science teacher; and Garrick Nate, eighth grade student.

Mr. Tyree related that Plymouth held community planning meetings as part of looking at the future of education and being a part of the 21st Century. Last year, students in grades 7 and 8 were given laptops. Within the next four years, each student in grades 3 through 12 should have a laptop. The students use Google applications, Moodle, and other free applications that will do the job.

The school is leasing Mac computers. A year after all students have laptops, the annual savings in paper alone will be \$20,000. Funding sources for lease of the laptops include textbook fees, with the understanding they replace textbooks, grants, E-rate dollars, and possibly summer school funding. Mr. Tyree said the state could help with the funding issue by working with Macintosh to get more affordable lease prices.

Mr. Funston commended the DOE for its initiatives - emphasizing technology as a tool for engagement and relevance - because without these having been put in place, this would not have happened at their school.

While the trend in the state has been to purchase cheap notebooks for students, the Plymouth Community School Corporation felt this was not the way to go. The Mac computers allow the students to be innovative and creative.

Mr. Funston said the MacBooks are used for digital curriculum, formative assessment and, most importantly, development of 21st Century Skills. A team of students has been trained to fix the computers when needed.

Things that can be done at the state level include:

- Continue the innovation grants that spearheaded this initiative.
- Clarify cost of insurance charged through textbook rental.
- Statewide purchasing to drive down costs.
- State approval and certification of digital content.

Mr. Garrety said having every student in your classroom using the MacBooks is wonderful. Everything is digital now, and going paperless is cost effective. Homework assignments are scanned as pdf documents for students, and students are now building up a digital portfolio of their work and being very creative.

Mr. Garrety said the Learning Connection is a great start, but he encourages the state to look into a consistent statewide digital curriculum. One problem encountered is that not every student has internet access when the student goes home. As communities, we all need to work on this.

Garrick Nate, 8th grade student at Lincoln Junior High School, discussed the student perspective of using the MacBooks and going paperless in school. Today we live in the age of technology, and Lincoln is using the computers to create new opportunities in the classroom. This motivates students to learn and makes learning more interesting. By using this new technology in their classes, students have been able to open new doors, explore more things, rather from just reading from textbooks. The MacBooks have let everyone find a way to learn that interests them.

Mr. Nate showed examples of class projects.

Dr. Schauna Findlay, Curriculum Director, said the Board just saw what middle schools should look like, and she discussed some next steps. The textbook adoption process has been expanded by opening the door to include all materials and digital content. A meeting was held recently with the State Library. The DOE will partner with that agency to help teachers take advantage of available resources in particular the Inspire data base. The textbook review process has been changed to provide more meaningful information.

V. Board Member Comments

VI. Adjudications and Hearings

A Mr. Zaring presented LSA Document #09-355, health services coordinated by RN who does not have BSN. Since the rulemaking period will soon expire, Mr. Zaring asked that the motions that currently exist on this rule be withdrawn and a motion be made to withdraw the document itself. The Department will provide the information the Board needs, and the Board will decide if it wants to proceed with this.

Mr. Gabet withdrew his motion on this rule. Mr. Pickett withdrew the second.

Mr. Pickett moved to withdraw the rule itself. Mrs. Blacketer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Mr. Zaring asked the Board to delay action on LSA Document #09-502, Accountability Measures for School Performance and Improvement.

A great deal of testimony has been received, and the Department wants to make sure it is given adequate consideration. It was the consensus of the Board to hold this matter over to the January meeting.

VII. Public Comments

Public comments were provided by Carol Baker.

VIII. Discussion

Dr. Bennett, currently in Washington, DC, joined the meeting by phone and gave an update on legislation. Dr. Bennett said the department's legislative priorities include:

- Flexibility and authority of school corporations (most notably schools) to deliver what they need to meet the needs of children. This centers around elimination of requirements for how schools do things and reports that have no connection to student performance and giving

schools freedom to devote more time and energy to student performance.

- Human resources (personnel management), in relation to collective bargaining and other laws. We need to give schools and corporations the authority and the autonomy to develop human resources practices, salary schedules, and annual evaluations. They need the ability to remediate and remove ineffective teachers. Teacher due process should be more consistent with an administrator due process. The salary schedule should be based on performance indicators, school corporations should be given the ability to develop those salary schedules.
- Options for children. This issue encompasses giving parents and children more robust options. We need to have the ability to authorize more charter schools by expanding charter authorizers, possibly to include a statewide authorizer. We also must develop a rigorous system for authorizer accountability.
- Accountability. School intervention should be more clearly addressed in the statute. The issue of corporation accountability must be included. If schools are failing, the corporations also are failing. We must develop a means for accessing corporation accountability and school governance accountability. School boards must be focused on student achievement, and make their decisions and direct their work to that end.

Mr. Pickett asked if there has been any feedback from legislators so far or any support. Dr. Bennett said the Department is hearing there is tremendous interest in the legislature, that we have the ability to reform education in this state, and that comprehensive education reform is an issue we must address now. Mr. Pickett asked about the possibility of getting Arnie Duncan, US Secretary of Education to endorse some or all of the legislative package. He feels this would show the bipartisan support for the kinds of reform efforts that have been going on around the country.

Dr. Bennett discussed Chiefs for Change, a new group of which he is a member. They will have the opportunity to take the first round of reform questions to Mr. Duncan at a meeting scheduled for later in the day. Dr. Bennett also discussed ways to support the legislative package that would include advocacy, feedback, and delivering the message that the time is now to reform education in Indiana.

Dr. Lindan Hill gave an update on Marian University Turnaround Leadership Academy. In July, Marian University was awarded \$500,000 by the DOE to establish a Turnaround Leadership Academy to identify, recruit, train, and develop transformational leaders who will focus on the challenge of turning around chronically low achieving schools. Dr. Hill introduced Christine Squier, M.S., Associate Director, Academy for Teaching and Learning Leadership, and Dawn Knapp, Technology Coordinator.

Dr. Hill said there is a problem with low performing schools around the country and in Indiana. We are concerned about how our students are doing, particularly with the respect to internationally competitiveness. Board members were given a copy of the U.S. Math Performance in Global Perspective, a study by Eric Hanushek, Paul E. Peterson, and Ludger Woessman. The study was commissioned through Harvard University and the Kennedy School of Education. The study compares the NAEP test and the Program for International Student Assessment, which is used internationally. The study compares states to each other and to countries around the world. Dr. Hill suggested everyone look over the report, especially the information regarding Indiana. The report was funded by the KERN Family Foundation in Wisconsin. The KERN Family Foundation is also a partner with the DOE in funding the Marian University Turnaround Leadership Academy. The KERN Family Foundation is extremely influential in the United States in terms of funding education innovation and education improvement programs, such as Project Lead The Way.

Dr. Hill discussed the Academy's admissions and selection criteria. An announcement was made on July 15; 35 days later the first cohort of candidates was identified and interviewed; and the first seminar was held on September 17. Initially, 42 applications were received, and 28 candidates remain in the program. The majority are teachers, and many are principals. Dr. Hill gave some background information on some presenters. Wes Bruce, Chief Assessment Officer, will soon meet with the group and discuss the Indiana growth model, which Dr. Hill called a stroke of genius.

Some next steps in the program involve expansion of local cohorts (satellite academies) in the northern and southern part of the state. The next round of interviews will begin in early 2011. The plan is to have 500 people in the Turnaround Leadership Academy within the next five years.

Dr. Hill said an invitation has been received to join the George W. Bush Institute's Alliance for Reform in Education. The focus of this group is to connect 50,000 principals across the country to work on educational improvement in the toughest environments.

Lee Ann Kwiatkowski, Director of School Turnaround, gave an update on DOE turnaround work. She reminded the Board that Technical Assistance Teams, consisting of DOE staff, outside educators, and local community members, conducted quality review visits to all 20 schools. Some of the 20 schools have entered into Memoranda of Agreement with the DOE, and some have their own reform efforts they are implementing.

A request for proposal (RFP) for turnaround school operators (TSOs) went out on November 5. Proposals are due December 17, and contracts should be awarded in early February 2011. Although TSOs will be identified, schools will still have this entire year before they take end of course assessments and ISTEP and we determine if they make enough improvement to avoid intervention. It takes an increase of three percent passing to get from the very lowest category of

probationary status to the watch category. Ms. Kwaikowski said it will probably be the end of June or early July before the department knows how the schools did.

A new website, which includes the RFP and a Q & A document is available at www.doe.in.gov/turnaround.

IX. Consent Agenda Items

- A. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of Freeway School Petition for John Paul the Great Catholic High School. [Agenda item X, D]
- B. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of Nonpublic School Recognition Status for Heritage Christian School. [Agenda item X, E]
- C. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of accreditation status for Indiana schools. [Agenda item X, F]
- D. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of allocations for adult education, spring term 2011. [Agenda item X, G]

Mr. Elsener moved for approval of the consent agenda items. Mr. Pickett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Action

- A. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of new course titles and course descriptions for Exploring College and Careers, Preparing for College and Careers, and Personal Financial Responsibility.

Mr. Pickett moved for approval. Mr. Shane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of a rulemaking process for school accountability rules. It was the consensus of the Board to hold this matter over to the January meeting.

C. Anna Shultz, Reading Consultant, presented the Reading Template.

Mrs. Blacketer made a motion to approve the template but stated this is not an approval of the reading plan itself, which is the subject of rulemaking. Mr. Shane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Board Operations

Mr. Pickett moved for adjournment. Mr. Gabet seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.